FWB
BX
6364.2
.N8
W55
M5
D3
2003

Our Church

The History and Times of
Milbournie Free Will Baptist,
& Its Surrounding Community

FWB
BX
6364.2
.N8
W55

2681

Davis, Mae
Our church : the history and times of M

Our Church

Information found in this book was researched & gathered by

Mae Davis

2003

Dedicated in Memory of all the Milbournie Family Members that have gone to be with our Lord

1/11
26811
4K2K4

FWB
BX
6344.2
N8
55
D3
2003

Sprawls Lamm School House

Sprawls Lamm School House belonged to Thomas Ruffin Lamm. The church started about 1880 in the schoolhouse. In 1886, the church was listed as Milbournie to the conference. The church joined the conference on October 18, 1889. Upon joining, Milbournie was still located in the one room "Sprawls Lamm School House" with (17) seventeen members on roll. The families that started the Church were Lamm, Davis, Williamson and Simpson. The old school house was abolished in 1916.

The First Church

The first Milbournie Church building started in 1890 and finished in 1894. An acre of land was donated to the church at the nearby "Tell Eatmon Mill Pond." Shortly after registering with the conference, a church was built on the "Tell Eatmon Mill Pond."

It is believed the name Milbournie was the result of a gathering of the ladies of the church. One of the ladies was a schoolteacher who had been impressed with her studies of the city of Melbourne, Australia. The Melbourne influence integrated with the fact that the "mill" at this location had burned and made way for the church to acquire the property. It is believed to have been the forces in creating the name "Milbournie" for our church. The "Tell Eatmon" site served the need of the church until about 1920 when the congregation decided to build a new church.

Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2014

https://archive.org/details/ourchurchhistory00davi

Milbournie Growing

This Church was started in the 1920's. The new church was built on Highway 264. The building was completed and services were started in the new building in 1923 with preaching on

each fourth Saturday and Sunday. Sunday School was each Sunday. Milbournie Free Will Baptist Church first started as an outpost to serve the religious needs of the home community. Its membership has shown steady increase.

Shortly after the close of World War II, the Milbournie treasury was stolen and the records of the church were burned. As a result, much of the early beginnings of Milbournie are recollections of some of the older members having been passed down since World War II.

Church Now

The Church was moved in 1957 to its present position and was bricked veneered. Central heating and air conditioning were installed in 1963. The new organ was donated to the church in 1965. The first organ that Milbournie had was a pipe organ. The first full time pastor was Dewey Boling in 1953. The sanctuary seats 175 people and the choir seats 20 people.

Fellowship Building

Before the Fellowship Building was built, we had to have Homecoming or other meals in the churchyard by putting out tables. The bazaar was held in Mr. Claudie Lamms pack house. The Fellowship Building was built in 1979. It is detached from the church building and offers space for special events for the church and community. This building features adequate kitchen space, 2 storage rooms, and a shelter that is useful for cookouts.

Parsonage

The parsonage is located about a hundred yards behind the church building on an acre lot. It was completed in August 1974 and has 1800 square feet of living area with carport, deck, 2 bathrooms, 3 bedrooms, living room, den and kitchen with central heating and air conditioning. A storage building is located on the lot at the rear of the house.

Church Organizations

Board Of Trustees; (3 current members)

Church Clerk; keeps records of the church business meetings

Finance Committee; plans the budget of the church

Building Committee; looks over the construction plans (7 current members)

Executive Committee; The presidents of each committee (5 current members)

Womans Auxiliary; Serving, Devotion, and Mission

Mens Leaque; Serving, Devotion, and Mission

Board of Deacons; Visit the sick and are under the preacher (6 current members)

Facilities Committee; check maintenance of church (5 current members)

Pastor History

Reverend Utley	(first name not known)	
Hardy Boykin		
Bryan Carroll		
Henry Renfrow		
Ben Tippett		
J.K. Ruffin		
Lawrence Strickland		
Eddie Morris		
Ben Cash		
George Davis		
M.E. Godwin	1935-1938	3years
J.B. Ferrell	1938-1940	2years
L.H. (Herndon) Boykin	1940-1941	1year
J.C. Varnell	1941-1945	4years

Pastor History

(continued)

R.C. Proctor	1945-1949	4 years
Milford Hales	1949-1950	1 year
Willie Renfrow	1950-1953	3 years
Dewey Boling	1953-1968	15 years
Harry Grubbs	1968-1975	7 years
John Williams	1975-1979	4 years
Charles Crisp	1980-1982	2 years
Curtis Jones	1982-1993	12 years
Richard Holmes	1993-2001	8 years
Billy Toler	2002-	

Our Future

From a humble beginning to what and where we are now, the future looks bright for Milbournie Free Will Baptist Church. With the new construction beginning soon in 2003, a new exceptional pastor, and a strong dedicated membership, we all have been truly blessed.

It's a great place for meeting friends and sharing family time with your loved ones. It's a great place to show your kids morals and to raise them with strong beliefs in Christianity. It's full of heritage and memories that will hopefully never be forgotten. Most importantly, Milbournie is the perfect place for you to share your relationship with our Lord.

What a wonderful place ***Our Church*** is!

Pictured here is our pastor Billy Toler and wife Margie. They became a part of our church family in April of 2002. He is a great pastor!

Milbournie Free Will Baptist Church

5106 264 Highway West
Wilson, N.C. 27893

Sunday School	10:00 am
Morning Worship	11:00 am
Evening Worship	7:00 pm
Wednesday Prayer Service	7:30 am

Our Church Community Landmarks

Here are some of the landmarks that stand for our communities past and make up many memories around our Church and how the area came to be the place it is now. Our old sites include Rock Hill School House, Lamm School, Bloomery Swamp, and Finch's Mill.

Rock Hill School House

Small Rural School houses were still commonplace in the twenties. It was located on Highway 1001. The part of 1001 where the Rock Hill School House was located is now Lamm Road. Lamm School was named for Thomas Ruffin Lamm. The Post Office was maintained here from 1895-1906. Lamm School replaced the Rock Hill School.

Lamm School

Lamm School was built in 1923 on land given by Mr. Grover Lamm. It was given to the state as long as it was to be used for school. In the 1970's, the school was closed. At that time, Lamm School's property went back to his estate.

After the school was closed, it was used as an antique furniture store until the 1990's. Due to its school years and connections with the church, Lamm School holds lots of memories for many people.

Lamm School - Facts from the Past

Old Fields Township

Enrollment (all white)
1913-1914 687 kids at Rock Hill School

1923-1924 1037 kids at Lamm School

Lamms Teachers as of 1924-1925 school year:

Mary E. Outlaw from Seven Springs

Mellie R. Davenport from Conetoe

Madge Porter from Seven Springs

Lucy V. Outlaw from Seven Springs

Emma Dunn from Wise

Daisy Simpson from Route 3 Wilson

The Bloomery Swamp

According to local historian Hugh B. Johnston Jr., this is the history of Great Swamp, which was renamed and is now known as Bloomery Swamp. The ironworks, located about one mile north of present-day Hornes Church just beyond the Wilson county line in Nash county, produced hundreds of tons of pig iron for conversion into cannons and munitions for confederate army. The mine supplied the Southern army with iron from 1862 until 1865.

The ore deposits were first mined as early as 1779 for agricultural and house hold purposes by the Bloomery Co., a firm which extracted the ore near Hornes Church and carried it by wagon three miles south to a furnace at Bloomery Swamp near Lamms School. Every source of energy was exerted to get the mine in operation. A 40-foot high furnace was erected at the mining site so pig iron could be produced on the spot. The works ran 24 hours a day, turning out hundreds of tons of pig iron which were transferred to Wilson, shipped by rail to Petersburg Va., and cast into cannons and other arms for front line confederate forces. The works continued on this scale until January 1865 when bombshell production was inaugurated. Almost 50 years passed before the confederate government, badly in need of metal, dispatched the firm of Tappy and Lumsden to the area.

The Bloomery Swamp
(continued)

The mill located at Bloomery Swamp was demolished several years after the Civil War and the old iron mine has been only a memory since 1865.

Lamms Mill was once a considerable establishment, but there is nothing at the site now except a concrete millrace and the ruins of an extensive earthen dam.

The Bloomery Pond belongs to the Thompson family now. It is located off Country Side Rd.

Finch's Mill

Finch's Mill Pond is located on highway US 264, five miles west of Wilson and one-fourth miles east of I-95. The Finch family acquired the property when Caswell Fletcher Finch (born March 23, 1834-died December 10, 1901) purchased the land from Wiley Tomlinson (grandfather of Beulah Lamm Finch) in the 1840s. Caswells home was across the highway from the pond. Caswell constructed a gristmill on the Bloomery Swamp Stream, and also a country store, which he operated for a number of years. He was once given a premium for having one of the best-kept mills in the state of North Carolina. Upon the death of Caswell, the mill passed into the hands of his son, Doctor Franklin Finch, which he

operated until 1912. In 1912, the original mill house was destroyed by fire.
Willie Thomas Finch, the youngest son of Doctor Franklin Finch, rebuilt the mill in 1919 and operated it until poor health forced him to retire in the 1950s. During this time much of the grain wasn't ground for a cash fee, but a toil bucket was scooped into the customers grain and an agreed upon portion kept to grind for personal use or to bag and sell to regular customers. During the first quarter of the twentieth century, Finch's mill was a recreational area, providing a place for boating, swimming, fishing, and picnicking. Several mineral springs were also in the area. This water was bottled and sold throughout the state. Many churches in the area used the pond for baptism services. A Post Office was located here from 1898-1901. Falling water was the source of power to grind the grain, and it also provided enough electricity to provide lights to the mill and the home. During the 1940's and 50's the Finch family operated a service station, country store and fabric shop. In 1968 Finch's millhouse stood in the way of progress. US Highway 264 was scheduled to be turn into a four-lane highway and the old mill structure was torn down. Today all that remain are the wooden gates, the lake, the concrete and earthen dam, and the memories of a by gone era. Finch's Mill remains a part of the Finch family.

Prayer for the Church

Dear Lord, Thank you for this Church that you have given us and all of the church family that you brought together for us to love and enjoy worshiping with. Lord let us remember to take seriously our membership in our church. Give us the strength and courage to properly serve this church as you have asked us to do. Thank you for giving us this great place to serve you faithfully and glory the name of Jesus.

Amen

"But you are a chosen race, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, Gods own people, in order that you may proclaim the mighty acts of him who called you out of darkness into his marvelous light."

First Peter 2:9